



## **The Illinois Department of Corrections**

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1301 Concordia Court, P.O. Box 19277 • Springfield, IL 62794-9277 • (217) 558-2200 TDD: (800) 526-0844

### **Statement on Hot Water at Stateville Correctional Center**

The Quarter House at Stateville Correctional Center operates with two hot water heaters to provide consistent delivery of hot water. In August, due to mechanical failures in one of the hot water heaters, Stateville Correctional Center began the procurement process to purchase the materials necessary to repair the system. During this time, Stateville Correctional Center was relying on the redundant hot water heater.

On October 6, Stateville Correctional Center received notification from the vendor that the parts would ship during the week of October 17. On October 18, the manufacturer informed Stateville Correctional Center the date for an essential part to repair the system changed to October 25. The facility now expects the delivery of all essential parts by October 26.

Subsequently, the impacted area experienced a loss in the hot water supply in both of its water heaters, and the Department contacted Phigenics, a water consultant firm that provides IDOC with water management services, to develop a temporary plan while awaiting parts for the primary system. On October 21, these experts recommended the Department remove the impacted water sources from use temporarily while remedying the issue. The facility removed the water source for the sinks and showers in the impacted housing units from use. Stateville Correctional Center provided access to potable bagged water and bottled water.

Dietary and laundry services continue without interruption and all necessary steps are being implemented to ensure proper sanitation methods are being used in these areas. The issue is not affecting the Stateville Reception Center or any other areas of Stateville Correctional Center. The sinks and showers in the Quarter House are the only water sources removed from use. The facility is providing sanitizer, water, and access to hot showers at another location.

The Department has taken extraordinary measures to avoid the disruption in medical care, mental health care and educational programming that transferring individuals from this facility would cause.

In the event there are additional delays to repairing the systems, the Department is evaluating temporary contingency plans to implement in the interim. After the systems are rebuilt, the facility will heat the water to the recommended temperature and have it tested before placing the water source back in use.

The wellness of the individuals in custody in IDOC facilities is a top priority of the Department. IDOC is working diligently to repair hot water supply functions in the Quarter House at Stateville Correctional Center.

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*Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change for those in custody, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.*